REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register:	07 January 1998
Name of applicant/court:	Sally Elizabeth Hughes
Applicant to the Labelling Body:	Not Applicable
Title of Publication:	The Word
Other Known Titles:	The Word on sex, life and relationships
Director:	Not Applicable
Producer:	Not Applicable
Publisher:	Not Applicable
Author:	Family Planning Association
Format:	Booklet Proof Sheets
Country of Origin:	New Zealand
Language:	English

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Components of film originally examined: Not Applicable.

Feature:	Running time:
Trailers:	Running time:
	Total Running time:

Excision/Alteration: Not Applicable.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

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Classification Decision:

Unrestricted.

Display conditions:

Not Applicable.

Descriptive Note:

Not Applicable.

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Direction to issue a label has been given on: Not Applicable.

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SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The booklet proof sheets entitled *The Word* are classified as:
Unrestricted.

The publication consists of eighteen proof sheets for use in the production of a booklet. The proof sheets present a comprehensive collection of sex education material aimed at a young teenage audience. The material is straight forward and informative, and encourages young people to be responsible and make their own decisions about their actions. Topics covered include feelings, sexual orientation, when to have sex, anatomy, what sex is, the effect of alcohol and drugs on sexual decision making, contraception, sexually transmitted diseases, and sexual abuse. A comprehensive glossary of sexual terms, a list of relevant help agencies, and instructions on how to use a condom also appear. The information is not particularly graphic and is not written in a sexually titillating manner.

Under s4 of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993, the Classification Office has taken into consideration research relating to the need for sex education at a young age. Research indicates that sex education is best taught early before patterns of sexual behaviour and contraceptive use are established. Given that research shows that 29% of New Zealand's 15 year olds are sexually active there are strong arguments for sex education programmes to be implemented at third form level. In this context it is relevant that material dealt with in *The Word* appears to fall into the area covered by the current health education syllabus for secondary schools.

In view of the manner in which the publication deals with matters of sex, the Classification Office finds that the availability of the proof sheets is unlikely to be injurious to the public good.

OFLC Ref: 9701794